

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

545-79 7-24-79

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Elm Grove (Preferred); Williams-Rick House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Rt. 646, northeast of Courtland

CITY, TOWN

Courtland

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

CODE
51

COUNTY

Southampton

CODE
175

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Edward S. Manry

STREET & NUMBER

Elm Grove

CITY, TOWN

Courtland

STATE

Virginia 23837

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Southampton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Courtland

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1973, 1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Elm Grove is an early Republican domestic complex northeast of Courtland in Southampton County. The main house is a two-story, six-bay frame building clad with beaded weatherboards and set on a Flemish-bond underpinning. At the south end, two exterior Flemish-bond brick chimneys with three-course-American-bond bases and tiled weatherings mark the end of the original section (A & B in attached floor plan) of the house, while at the north end an exterior three-course-American-bond chimney serves the early 19th-century addition. Nine-over-nine sash are used on the first story and 6/6 sash on the second, and all of the windows have molded sills and louvred blinds. The main block is covered with a gable roof trimmed with a box cornice.

Off the southeast corner of the main section is a square, one-story, one-bay frame wing (E) with a gable roof, 2/2 sash, and plain weatherboarding. Set on piers and decorated with louvred blinds, it was erected ca. 1884 and was used as an insurance office by the present owner's father. A small one-story front porch with plain Doric columns was enlarged at this time and now stretches from the office wing to the front door of the main house. Surviving on the porch are a pair of plank benches with double-ogee pedestals; these are traditional early 19th-century porch furnishings in the area.

Off the west end of an original ell (raised in the late 19th century to two stories) is a one-story frame kitchen (F), square in plan, with 6/6 sash and a low gable roof. It is connected to the main block by a formerly open porch and a small closet.

The plan of Elm Grove is relatively simple, although its evolution has been complex. As near as can be determined, the house was originally a one-room building, one-story high, with a lean-to behind. This original one-room-and-lean-to building forms the present south room of the main block and the first-floor bedroom just west of it. Probably built in the late 18th century, this house had a stair in the northwest corner of the main room and two rooms in the lean-to. In the mid-19th century, the stair apparently was removed from the main room, but another which ascends from the lean-to was put in its place. At that time the lean-to partition was moved north to enclose the stair. Circa 1820 an addition was made to the north of the original house. This two-story wing contained a stair passage and another large parlor, thus giving the house its present six-bay, first-floor facade and single-pile, central-passage plan. In the mid-19th century, a second story was built over the original south room.

The decoration in the main block is of very high quality but is not elaborate. The original main (south) room is treated with recessed-panel wainscot broken out under the windows. The mantel consists of attenuated fluted Roman Doric pilasters set on high bases and supporting a molded shelf broken over their caps. A single rectangular recessed panel occupies the frieze. In the lean-to room, similar recessed-panel wainscoting is employed, but it was rearranged slightly when the partition was moved to its present position. Original graining survives on the north exterior door. The mantel here has an architrave surround and a plain unsupported shelf. In the added passage, recessed-panel wainscot with a pedestal chair rail is used and is carried up the open-string stair. This stair has a molded rail similar to the surviving original portions of the front porch rail, a square newel, two rectangular balusters to a tread, scalloped brackets, and recessed spandrel panels. Mid-19th-century graining survives on all of the hall woodwork, but the inside of the raised-panel, stair closet door retains earlier mahogany graining with a painted inlay band on each panel. A 19th-century lantern hangs from its original ceiling hook.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Elm Grove, Southampton County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

The wainscoting in the north parlor is similar to that in the passage. The mantel here consists of two freestanding Doric colonnettes with banded necking, supporting a thin molded shelf and flanking a rectangular recessed frieze panel. The window and door frames are reeded and have bull's-eye paterae. Interesting early fittings include the small shelves for supporting a mirror base, which survive between the front and the rear windows.

Three noteworthy early outbuildings survive. Directly north of the house is a single-story, one-cell frame building probably erected as an office and used at the turn of the century as a school. It has a recessed-panel mantel, a chairboard, and a five-course-American-bond chimney. The nails and the chimney suggest that this building was erected at about the time the house was enlarged. West of the house is a frame dairy with a gable roof, beaded weatherboards, and louvred ventilator above the door on the front. At the rear, the ventilator is formed of three horizontal muntins. This building is original to the first part of the house, or very close to that date.

Most interesting is the smokehouse which stands northwest of the house. This low, square building has saddle-notched round log walls and encloses four smokepits. This is the only known early example of a multiple-pit smokehouse in Virginia. The high gables are clad in beaded weatherboards fastened with wrought nails, and it seems certain that the structure is at least as old as the house and may antedate it slightly. A 20th-century shed shelters the front of this building.

South of the house is a late 19th- or early 20th-century, gable-roofed frame shed. In it is stored the farm's 19th-century cotton gin, which formerly was housed in another structure which stood near the road northeast of the house.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The register bounds are a small rectangle bounded on the southeast by the road and on the other three sides by the fences which enclose the domestic outbuildings.

DU

18 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND LIST IF BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1800; ca. 1820; mid-19th century; 1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elm Grove is an important vernacular domestic complex probably begun by the Williams family in the late 18th century and enlarged and improved by its subsequent owners. In its original form, the house was representative of a group of small dwellings built in southern Virginia in the period of the early Republic. Its 19th-century additions and its outbuildings, particularly the rare multi-pit log smokehouse, add to its interest as an artifact of two hundred years of rural life in Southampton County.

The tract now known as Elm Grove was left to Isaac Williams by his father, Jonah Williams in 1771. After Isaac Williams's death in 1788, the property remained in his estate until 1803, when 342 acres of his land were transferred to his son Edwin. It is likely that the original one-room-with-two-room-lean-to house was erected during the son's tenure. It is a house form popular among relatively well-off planters in the area from the late 18th century until the second quarter of the 19th century. Along with the small house, Williams built a large log smokehouse (and probably other, now vanished, outbuildings as well). No other smokehouses of this size, structural material and configuration (four smokepits) are known in Southside Virginia. Indeed, very few smokehouses of any type that are this old have survived.

After Edwin Williams's death in 1811, the estate was divided among several heirs, all of whom soon sold their portions to Richard and Oswin Ricks, a father and son, respectively. The father purchased the 3/4-acre house lot, and a year later gave his son this tract "whereon the dwelling house stands." By 1820, when the land tax books first listed building valuation separately, Oswin Ricks's buildings were assessed at \$1,500. Thus the main block in its larger form would date from no later than 1820. There was no change in the valuation of the tract until 1852, when a rise in value of \$50 was recorded, possibly accounting for the construction of an office/schoolhouse and for the second story added to the original section. Another \$200 addition in 1872 may account for the kitchen, and a \$600 increase in 1884 is certainly the result of the office addition to the southeast corner of the main block.

In 1832 Oswin Ricks sold the property to Dr. Robert Murray, an Irish-born physician. Tradition states that Murray operated a school at Elm Grove at mid-century, a belief substantiated by the 1850 census which lists fourteen girls and two boys (in addition to the Murrays's own six children) residing at the house at that time. Murray sold the property to William W. Briggs in 1858. In 1887 Lucius Manry, father of the present owner, bought Elm Grove.

DU/MTP

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Southampton County, Deed Books 13, 14, 22, 29.

Land Tax Books 1787-1863.

Will Books 2, 4, 10, 22.

1850 Census.

Upton, Dell. "Early Vernacular Architecture in Southeastern Virginia". Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, Brown University, June 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 318940 4068200
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

QUADRANGLE NAME Courtland, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on NW side of Route 646 approximately 700' SW of the intersection of said route with a NW tributary of Nottoway Swamp; thence extending 400' SW along said side of said route; thence extending about 200' NW along fenceline, then about 400' NE along fenceline, then about 200' SE along fenceline to NW side of Route 646, point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

May 1979

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE MAY 15 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

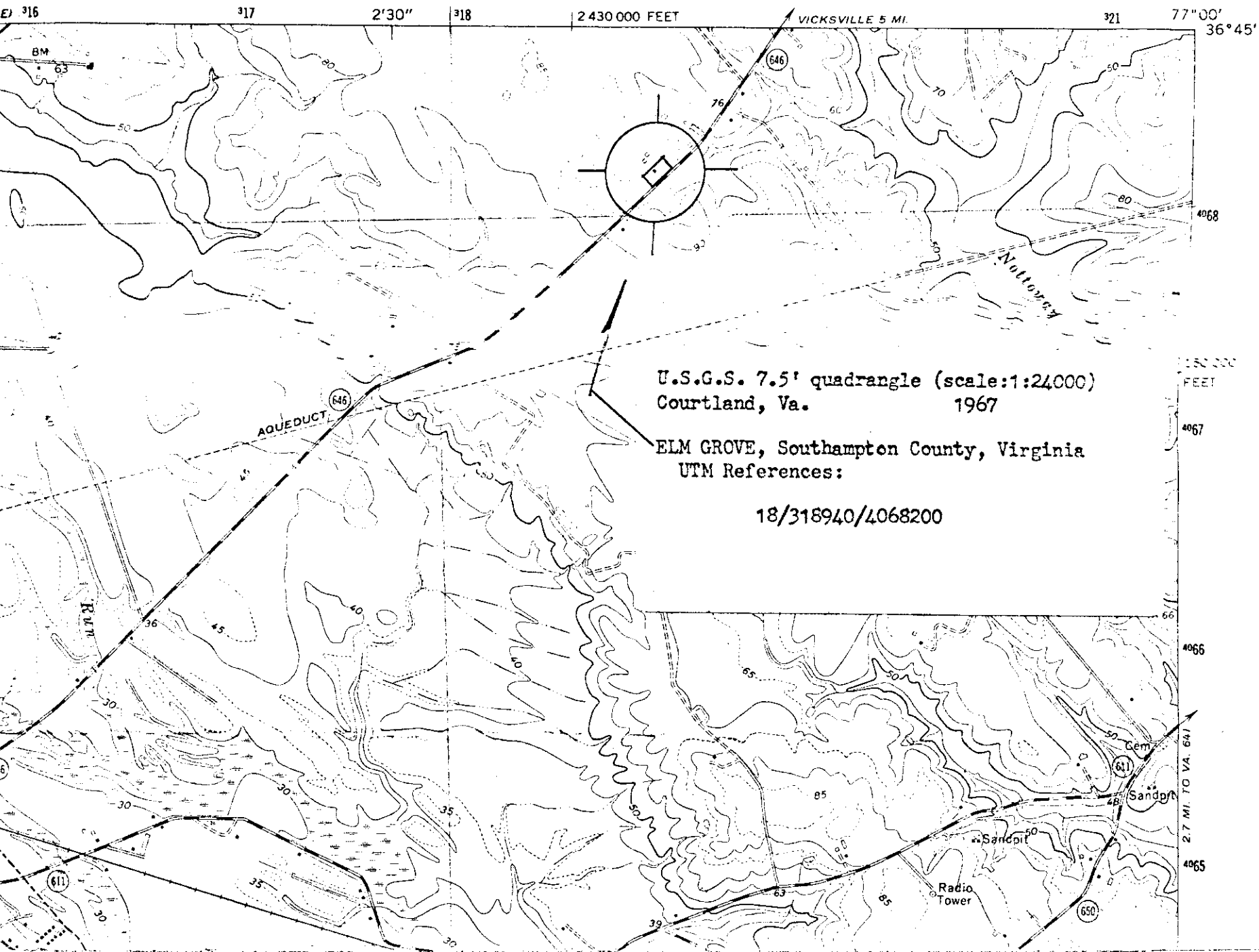
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

COURTLAND QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA-SOUTHAMPTON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE 1/4 BOYKINS 15' QUADRANGLE

5687 IV SW
(SEIDLEY)



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Courtland, Va. 1967

ELM GROVE, Southampton County, Virginia
UTM References:

18/318940/4068200